United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1084
21 February 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

♦ Security Council unanimously approves tonight Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia on establishing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for an initial period of 12 months; in addendum to report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General had stated that estimated cost of deploying and maintaining the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia for initial 12-month period would be about $634 million.

♦ "In view of deteriorating situation", Secretary-General announces he is sending Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Israel and Lebanon tomorrow, 22 February; urges "restraint by all concerned" in earlier statement today to the Security Council.

♦ The Secretary-General leaves tomorrow, 22 February, for Geneva, where he will be keynote speaker at opening ceremony of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women on Tuesday, 25 February.

♦ The Security Council decides to refer the application of San Marino for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for consideration; the Committee is expected to take up the item on Monday, 24 February.

♦ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) allocates some $1 million in emergency funds for the 60,000 refugees who have streamed into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

♦ A new multilateral order for cooperation on refugees, migration and humanitarian affairs is emerging, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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The Security Council tonight unanimously approved the Secretary-General's report on establishing a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in

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Yugoslavia for an initial period of 12 months, and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure its earliest possible deployment.

In adopting resolution 743 (1992), the Council also requested the Secretary-General "to deploy those elements of the Force which can assist in developing an implementation plan for the earliest possible full deployment of the force, for approval by the Council and a budget which together will maximize the contribution of the Yugoslav parties to offsetting its costs and in all other ways secure the most efficient and cost-effective operation possible."

By this action the Council also demanded that all parties and others concerned take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the personnel sent by the United Nations and of members of the European Community Monitoring Mission. It called again upon the Yugoslav parties to cooperate fully with the Conference on Yugoslavia in its aim of reaching a political settlement consistent with the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Council urged all the parties and others concerned to comply with the cease-fire arrangements signed at Geneva on 23 November 1991 and at Sarajevo on 2 January 1992, and to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the Secretary-General.

In an addendum to his report to the Security Council on the cost of deploying and maintaining the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General had stated that the estimated cost for the initial 12-month period would be about $634 million. That allows for a force consisting of approximately 13,340 military, 530 police and 519 civilian personnel.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced this afternoon that "in view of the deteriorating situation", he was sending Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan to Lebanon and Israel tomorrow, 22 February. Mr. Annan will be joining the Department of Peace-keeping Operations on 1 March.

In a statement made earlier today to the Security Council, Secretary-Ceneral Boutros Boutros-Ghali had emphasized the "urgent need for the restraint by all concerned, which the Security Council called for only two days ago".

The Secretary-General also stated that the Israel Defense Forces, assisted by the de facto forces of the so-called "South Lebanon Army", which had launched an incursion yesterday morning into the UNIFIL area of deployment, had withdrawn this morning "under cover of intense artillery and

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mortar fire". Two UNIFIL soldiers from Fiji had been seriously wounded in the crossfire opposing Israeli and de facto forces, and armed elements resisting their advance, while five others had received light injuries.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali went on to say that, on his instructions, Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had conveyed yesterday to the Permanent Representative of Israel a strong protest on his behalf and had asked that the Israeli and allied forces be withdrawn immediately. The Permanent Representative had stated that the incursion had been launched to stop the firing of missiles at the Israeli towns and villages from southern Lebanon, and that the force would be withdrawn as soon as it had carried out its mission.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General had noted that the Israeli incursion "marks a further turn in the seemingly endless violence in the area" and emphasized the urgent need for the restraint by all concerned.

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The Secretary-General leaves tomorrow, 22 February, for Geneva, where he will be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women on Tuesday, 25 February.

The Summit, organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will bring together the wives of Heads of State and Government from nearly 50 countries, as well as several heads of United Nations and interregional agencies. It will be opened by Queen Fabiola of the Belgians.

While in Geneva, the Secretary-General will also chair a UN inter-agency meeting at which he will introduce Jan Eliasson, his new Emergency Relief Coordinator.

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The Security Council tonight decided to refer the application of San Marino for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of new Members for consideration. The Committee is expected to take up this item next Monday, 24 February. If San Marino's application is approved by the Committee, it will go back to the Council immediately, which will then send it to the General Assembly for final approval.

The General Assembly, which was to have met on Friday, 28 February, to consider the application of eight States for United Nations membership, is now scheduled to meet instead on Monday, 2 March. San Marino's application is approved by the Security Council, its bid for membership will also be considered at that time.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today allocated some $1 million in emergency funds for the more than 60,000 refugees who have streamed into Bangladesh from Myanmar. Substantial additional funds are expected to be allocated by UNHCR after a technical mission submits a more detailed report of what is urgently needed. There will then be an appeal to donors.

At Headquarters last night, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh handed the Secretary-General a letter from his Foreign Minister requesting the Secretary-General's good offices and assistance with regard to the refugees. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali is scheduled to meet with the High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, while he is in Geneva next week, to discuss humanitarian aspects of the matter.

The UNHCR technical mission currently inspecting a string of encampments on the Bangladesh border reported that refugees were streaming into the country at a rate of 1,000 a day. Unless conditions improved in Myanmar, according to a report from UNHCR, those numbers were expected to increase.

The leader of the technical mission, Patrick de Souza, said, "The number of arrivals is overwhelming. There's very little food. Sanitation in bad. There's malnutrition, especially among the women and children."
Marino for membership in the United Nations.

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A new multilateral order for cooperation on refugees, migration and humanitarian affairs is emerging, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata. Addressing the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva this morning, she said that preventive protection strategies - meaning the avoidance of circumstances that forced people to leave - could and should be pursued long before people begin to flee. Such measures would obviate their need for flight.

She was speaking as the Commission continued its deliberations on the violation of human rights around the world. Mrs. Ogata pointed out that although armed conflict was the immediate cause of most refugee movements today, human rights violations, combined with severe economic deprivations, usually lay at the root of such conflicts. It needed to be recognized, she said, that such violations were a major factor of coerced many departures, and that preventing them was the best protection for refugees.

The challenge, she emphasized, was to turn this recognition into a practical strategy.

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CORRECTION: In the Daily Press Briefing of 13 February, the fifth paragraph of the story on the Secretary-General's recommendations for a United Nations peace-keeping operation in Yugoslavia should have read as follows:

In reply to correspondents' questions about the troop composition, the Spokesman said that Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding had met today with some 30 potential contributors.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1085
24 February 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Commander of UNIFIL meet with Lebanese leadership in Beirut on situation in southern part of country.

- Consultations with troop contributing governments to United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) continue at Headquarters.

- Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan to consult with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in Geneva on latest round of talks.

- Outer Space Committee begins commemoration of International Space Year 1992 at Headquarters; role of remote sensing highlighted at first of two meetings.

- Human Rights Commission acts on texts on South Africa, Cambodia, Afghanistan; mercenaries; economic, social, cultural rights.

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Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and the Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Lars-Eric Wahlgren, met today in Beirut with Lebanese President Elias Hraoui, Prime Minister Omar Karame and Foreign Minister Fares Boueiz.

According to the Secretary-General's Spokeswoman, Nadia Younes, Mr. Goulding stressed during those meetings that his visit was an expression of Mr. Boutros-Ghali's concern about the situation in southern Lebanon. He reaffirmed the Secretary-General's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978). The parties also discussed the cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese army and ways to develop it further.

The Lebanese leadership expressed appreciation for UNIFIL's work, especially in the last few days, and pledged its full support for the force.

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The Spokeswoman said Mr. Goulding was now on his way to Naqoura, headquarters of UNIFIL. Tomorrow he would visit UNIFIL's area of operation, including the sectors where the recent Israeli Defence Force incursion took place. He would then travel to Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Israeli Defence Minister.

In a separate announcement today, the Spokeswoman said the Secretary-General's Envoy to Libya, Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, had arrived in Tripoli over the weekend and was scheduled to meet today with Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi.

Mr. Safronchuk will convey to the Colonel a message from the Secretary-General in connection with the Security Council's request for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

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A United Nations spokeswoman said today that consultations with the troop contributing governments to the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) regarding the battalions and the force commanders were continuing at Headquarters.

She said that once the consultations are completed and approved by the Security Council, the intention was to bring the force commander, deputy force commander and the higher echelon of the troops to New York for "intensive briefings".

An advance mission drawn from the various battalions would then go to Yugoslavia, "in about two weeks' time", she said, with the mandate given to it by the Security Council. It would report back to the Council with a detailed plan and the revised budget estimates before the full deployment of the UNPROFOR.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, has left the region for Geneva to consult with Mr. Boutros-Ghali on his latest rounds of talks in Peshawar, Kabul, Teheran and Islamabad. On his way to the Swiss capital, Mr. Sevan will visit Riyadh to consult with officials in Saudi Arabia.

Before his departure from Islamabad, Mr. Sevan met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and senior officials of the Government of Pakistan. He briefed them on his latest round of consultations, particularly with regard to convening a gathering, or Iljas, of Afghans outside the region in order to reach agreement on a transition mechanism leading to the establishment of a government through free and fair elections.

Throughout his discussions, Mr. Sevan was given assurances of Pakistan's support for the Secretary-General's efforts. He expressed his confidence that

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with the support offered by Pakistan and the other governments and parties concerned, the "remaining difficulties on the road to peace in Afghanistan should be overcome".

The Secretary-General is in Geneva this week to address the opening of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and to chair a United Nations inter-agency meeting.

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The importance of satellite remote sensing in monitoring the global and space environment was stressed this morning as the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held the first of two special meetings in celebration of International Space Year 1992.

In a message read out by N. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that the main emphasis of United Nations activities for the Year would be on education and information, particularly for developing countries, in order to ensure that development proceeded on a sustainable basis.

During its two-week session, the Committee will focus on the use of space technology for the protection of the earth's environment and will pay attention to the development of indigenous capabilities, particularly in the developing countries.

It will consider progress in national and international space activities related to the earth's environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme. Other issues on the agenda include the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

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The Commission on Human Rights has recommended that the Economic and Social Council call upon all Governments to maintain sanctions against South Africa. It also acted on questions of Cambodia and Afghanistan, the use of mercenaries and human rights and extreme poverty.

Approval was also given to drafts dealing with human rights and economic adjustment policies, trade union rights and the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Among the texts, one on the situation in Cambodia, welcomed, among other things, the fundamental importance given to the observance of human rights in the provisions of the comprehensive settlement. It encouraged the Centre for Human Rights to develop its programme of human rights information throughout Cambodia, in coordination with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAC) in Cambodia.

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Another draft, on the situation in Afghanistan, emphasized the need for an early start of the intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based Government to ensure the broadest support of all segments of the Afghan people.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1086
25 February 1992

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding visits southern Lebanese town of Kafra damaged in incidents of last Thursday, 20 February; holds meeting in Tel Aviv with Israeli Minister of Defence Moshe Arens.

- Secretary-General addresses Summit for Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Geneva; meets with President of Swiss Confederation to discuss, among other things, possibility of sending small Swiss police force to Yugoslavia.

- Security Council recommends to General Assembly admission of San Marino to United Nations membership.

- Preparatory Commission for Seabed Authority and Sea-law Tribunal begins tenth session at Kingston.

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Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding today visited the Nepalese battalion's zone of the United Nations operation in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the village of Kafra which was severely damaged in the incidents of last Thursday, 20 February. He was accompanied by General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of UNIFIL.

Following a telephone conversation with Mr. Goulding, Spokesman François Giuliani announced that on the way to the village, the Under-Secretary-General and his party had met a group of Hizbollah members. There was a brief argument, but when the group was informed of Mr. Goulding's identity and his purpose in visiting Kafra, he was allowed to proceed, although one member of the group fired some shots in the air. Once in Kafra, Mr. Goulding toured the village under the guidance of a mixed group of Hizbollah and Amal members and they inspected the heavy damage inflicted to the mosque and schools, as well as the destruction of some 70 houses.

According to the Spokesman, the Under-Secretary-General then returned to Naqoura and drove to Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Minister of Defence of Israel, Moshe Arens. Mr. Goulding and the Minister discussed the situation in

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For information media--not an official record

southern Lebanon as well as last Thursday's incident, and Mr. Goulding told him "how in the view of the United Nations, peace and security can be restored in the region through the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) and full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory". The Spokesman said the discussions were "amicable", but that it was not "possible to bridge the gap between the two positions".

Mr. Goulding will be returning to New York on Thursday to report to the Secretary-General.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning opened the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Summit has brought together the wives of the Heads of State and Government from nearly 50 countries, and the heads of several United Nations and interregional agencies.

In his opening address, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated that an essential part of the process of transition from the cold war era to an era of cooperation would be to ensure balanced economic and social development and equality of opportunity for women and men. He welcomed the convening of the Summit, noting that women's contribution was crucial both within their immediate communities and for the success of the overall development process.

Before the ceremony today, the Secretary-General met with the President of the Swiss Confederation, René Felber. They had a tour d'horizon of the world situation and exchanged views on Cambodia, Somalia, Western Sahara and Yugoslavia. On the question of peace-keeping operations in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General and Mr. Felber discussed the possibility of sending a small Swiss police force there.

Later in the day, Mr. Boutros-Ghali was scheduled to meet the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Abdul Wakil. He will also meet with his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, who will brief him on his latest round of talks in the region.

* * *

The Security Council this morning recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of San Marino be admitted to United Nations membership. The action was taken without a vote.

The Council also decided to waive the time-limit set forth in its rules of procedure, so that the recommendation can be presented to the General Assembly at the resumption of its forty-sixth session on 2 March, together with its recommendation to admit eight Republics of the former Soviet Union for United Nations membership.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea began its tenth session yesterday in the Jamaican capital of Kingston by approving its programme of work for the next three weeks.

During the session, the Preparatory Commission will continue to elaborate regulations to govern the mining of manganese nodules from the international seabed, as well as to define administrative structures and rules for the two institutions to be created under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea -- the Authority and the Tribunal.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1087
26 February 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General deplores helicopter incident in which Australian officer in United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia is wounded; calls on Cambodian parties to scrupulously observe Paris Accords and preserve conditions for peace plan.

- Secretary-General chairs meeting in Geneva with senior executives of Non-Governmental Organizations concerned with emergency relief.

- Referendum for whites in South Africa described as "an unfortunate denouement in the process of political change" by Chairman of Special Committee against Apartheid.

- Secretary-General stresses need for cooperation between the United Nations and Organization of African Unity in seeking solutions to Africa's problems, in a message delivered at meeting of Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa.

- Iraq proposes "fair balance" between progress achieved so far on destruction of Iraqi weapons and Security Council's position on sanctions with a view to lifting them.

- Only Powers with technology and mastery over its applications were benefiting fully from use of outer space, Mexico's representative tells Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today through Spokesman François Giuliani that he had learned with "profound concern" of an incident earlier today in which an Australian officer with the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was wounded when unknown elements fired on a United Nations helicopter en route to Batambang.

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The Secretary-General called on all parties to the Paris accords on Cambodia, signed last October, to scrupulously observe those agreements and to preserve conditions in the country conducive to the successful implementation of the peace plan.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali has asked the Senior Military Liaison Officer of UNAMIC, Brigadier-General Michel Loridon, to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and to report back to him as soon as possible.

The Spokesman told correspondents that the wounded officer was Lieutenant Colonel Russel Stuart, Commander of the Australian contingent. He was treated in a hospital in Bangkok and was now in "satisfactory condition". The incident took place when three or four shots were fired at a UNAMIC helicopter carrying three liaison officers on a reconnaissance mission of proposed sites for containment of armed factions, as called for in the peace plan, the Spokesman said.

In a related development, Security Council held consultations today concerning a draft text on the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Council is expected to take action on the draft resolution later this week.

The General Assembly has already approved $200 million for the start-up of the operation which is estimated to cost some $2 billion.

* * *

The Secretary-General today chaired a meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with senior executives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) concerned with emergency relief.

During the meeting, Mr. Boutros-Ghali reviewed with participants NGO cooperation with the United Nations on humanitarian issues and introduced the recently-appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, who will serve as Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The Secretary-General emphasized the importance of close cooperation in the humanitarian emergency sector with NGOs and with regional organizations in all fields of United Nations endeavours. He also underlined his commitment to enhancing United Nations effectiveness in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

NGO participants and Under-Secretary-General Eliasson agreed that the United Nations should act as a trigger mechanism to alert international attention and serve as a catalyst to generate rapid response to the outbreak of emergencies. They agreed that political support by the United Nations was crucial in insuring the successful provision of relief. Participants also emphasized the need for timely early warning capacities and for greater exchange of information to that end. Specific emergency situations were addressed, particularly related to the situation in the Horn of Africa.

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The Secretary-General was scheduled to chair a meeting of United Nations Agencies and Programmes concerned with emergency relief this afternoon.

He was to meet this evening with a special envoy of Libyan President Muammar el-Qaddafi, Mr. Yousef Debri.

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The referendum for whites in South Africa on 17 March, which President F.W. de Klerk has called to test white support for the process of reform, was "an unfortunate denouement in the process of political change" in that country, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), said in a statement issued today. "It proves once again that the process is not irreversible, an assessment which the Special Committee has made repeatedly in the past."

He warned that if the referendum should fail, the consequences inside and outside South Africa would be profoundly disastrous. "All should be keenly aware that a return to the regressive and repressive apartheid policies of the past could bring about unprecedented violence and a drastic isolation of South Africa," he stressed.

The Special Committee believed, he went on, that the process of negotiating the eradication of apartheid and of adopting a new constitution must have the confidence of all South Africans. It was imperative, therefore, that such a process advance without delays and that all South Africans decide democratically on a new constitution.

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The Secretary-General yesterday stressed the need for cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in seeking solutions to Africa's problems in a message to the fifty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Addis Ababa this week.

The Secretary-General said in his message, delivered by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, James O.C. Jonah, that the current political conflicts in Africa underscored the need for close cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU in the search for solutions to the problems.

He said the situation in Somalia had placed renewed emphasis on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which deals with regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security. The joint meetings in New York this month between the United Nations, the OAU and other regional organizations that had laid the ground for a future cease-fire arrangement in Mogadiscio, would help establish a pattern for future cooperation and the means by which the United Nations could help enhance the

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role of regional organizations in peace-keeping and peace-making efforts.

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Iraq has proposed that "a fair balance" be drawn between progress achieved so far on the destruction of Iraqi weapons and the Security Council's position on the sanctions with a view to lifting them.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 24 February, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein reaffirmed Iraq's willingness to cooperate and deal constructively with inspection missions sent out by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. He proposed that Iraqi experts be invited to present the information required from Iraq on its weapons of mass destruction and to respond to any questions that might be raised by the Special Commission. He also offered to provide, upon specific request, any available evidence relating to Iraq's declarations and to discuss the scope of destruction proposed by the Special Commission.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister stated that "Iraq does not reject the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification". He went on to say that "Iraq can deal with the Security Council and the Special Commission on the basis of respect for sovereignty and of refraining from methods of provocation and infringement upon Iraq's industrial capabilities" which, he said, will be devoted to peaceful purposes or to military purposes not prohibited by the Security Council.

The most recent mission to Iraq visited the country from 21 to 24 February and was headed by Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission. (S/23636)

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Only the Powers which possessed the technology and had mastery over its applications were benefiting fully from the use of outer space, the representative of Mexico told the Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, yesterday. That situation served to widen the economic gap between developed and developing countries, but the Subcommittee could help prevent a North-South confrontation.

Statements in the Subcommittee's general debate, which began yesterday morning, focused on the establishment of national space agencies, international agreements for space cooperation, the problem of space debris and principles concerning nuclear power sources.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1088
27 February 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rolf Ekeus, head of special mission to Iraq seeking guarantees for complete disclosure of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, says he did not reach "unconditional agreement" with Iraqi Government.

- Spokeswoman informs correspondents that formal appointment of Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar as Force Commander of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia will be announced shortly, together with that of other senior personnel.

- Board of Governors of International Atomic Energy Agency agrees to strengthen nuclear safeguards inspection regime.

- Report by United Nations Environment Programme reveals new, important results from research on effects of ozone depletion

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The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, says he has not been able to receive guarantees from the Iraqi Government that it will provide "full, final and complete disclosure" of all its weapons of mass destruction. He was head of a special mission dispatched by the Security Council to Iraq from 21 to 24 February to seek an unconditional agreement by Iraq to implement all its obligations under resolution 786 (1991).

In his report to the Secretary-General yesterday, Mr. Ekeus says that despite a statement by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein reaffirming Iraq's willingness to cooperate and deal constructively with all the inspection missions, Iraq is not providing full and complete disclosure of its weapons programmes. Instead, Iraq has expressed the view that it has already provided all the necessary information required of it. However, Mr. Ekeus notes, while the discussions between the Special mission and the Iraqi representatives were in progress, a ballistic missile inspection team found, at two sites, prohibited items that had not previously been declared.

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For information media—not an official record

The Commission Chairman concludes that much remains to be done, particularly in the chemical, biological and ballistic missile fields. Only the full cooperation and goodwill of the Government of Iraq will lead to successful ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraqi weapons sites and to the assumption that "Iraq was in substantial compliance with its obligations" under the Security Council's resolutions, he says. (S/23643)

In separate news today, it was announced that the Security Council would convene a formal meeting tomorrow morning, with the possibility of adopting a draft text on the Secretary-General's report on Cambodia.

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A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that the formal appointment of Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar of India as Force Commander of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) would be announced in the coming days, together with that of other senior personnel of the Force.

Mr. Nambiar has had wide-ranging experience involving regimental, command and staff appointments. Among other things, he has served as Military Adviser with the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom and was appointed as Additional Director General Military Operations to the rank of Major General in June 1989.

On the financial implications of UNPROFOR, the Spokeswoman said the documents indicating the full cost for the operation would be ready this weekend and would be taken up by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

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A number of measures intended to strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system have been agreed to by the Agency's Board of Governors. During a two-day meeting, which ended yesterday in Vienna, the Board agreed on enhancing IAEA's ability to conduct special inspections and to expand requirements on the provision and use of design information about nuclear facilities.

The Board called on parties to comprehensive safeguards agreements to provide preliminary information on programmes for new nuclear facilities and modifications to existing facilities, as soon as the decision to construct, to authorize construction or to modify a facility has been taken. That information, it said, would be updated during the project definition, preliminary design, construction and commissioning phases.

The Board also discussed the preparation of an international convention in the field of nuclear safety.

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Press Release DH/1088
27 February 1992

Several new and important results have emerged from research over the past few years on the effects of ozone depletion, according to a report issued this month by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It concludes, among other points, that increased penetration of solar ultraviolet radiation to the earth's surface - due to continuing loss of stratospheric ozone - is likely to result in a higher incidence of skin cancer, eye problems and infectious diseases, as well as food shortages and the extinction of some plant and animal species.

The report, entitled "Environmental Effects of Ozone Depletion: 1991 Update", evaluates progress made during the past two years in research on the effects of increased B-band untraviolet (UVB) radiation. Issued by UNEP's Environmental Effects Panel, it is intended to assist decision-makers by incorporating scientific information on the effects of ozone depletion into the policy process.

According to the report, increases in UVB radiation tallied with observed decreases in ozone (such as the "ozone hole" over Antartica) in a way consistent with theoretical predictions. On the other hand, decreases in ultraviolet radiation observed in industrialized areas were due possibly to rising pollution levels. Efforts to cut pollution and climate changes that might reduce cloudiness could increase penetration by UVB radiation in those areas.

Another point concerns the controversial issue of chlorofluorocarbons - or CFCs. Even with an immediate phase-out of CFCs and related compounds, the report states, current chlorine levels in the atmosphere commit the world to an inevitable decrease in stratospheric ozone well into the next century.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1089
28 February 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- In a Presidential statement, the Security Council deplores and condemns the failure of Iraq to provide the special mission dispatched to Iraq by the Secretary-General "with full, final and complete disclosure" of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction; demands that Iraq "immediately implement all its obligations under Council resolution 687 (1991) and subsequent resolutions on Iraq", and emphasizes that Iraq "must be aware of the serious consequences of continued material breaches of resolution 687.

- Security Council authorizes establishment of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia to be deployed as soon as possible for a 15-month period at estimated cost of $1.9 billion.

- Delegates from 148 countries complete two weeks of negotiations on international convention on climate change, reporting progress but no breakthrough.

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In a Presidential statement read out Friday night by Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering of the United States at a meeting of the Security Council, its members deplore and condemn the failure of Iraq to provide the special commission dispatched to that country by the Secretary-General "with full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometers".

The members of the Council further demand that Iraq "immediately implement all its obligations under Council resolution 687 (1991) and subsequent resolutions on Iraq" and require that the Government of Iraq communicate directly to the Council "without further delay" an authoritive and unconditional acknowledgement of its agreement to accept and implement those obligations.

The Council also emphasizes that Iraq "must be aware of the serious consequences of continued material breaches of resolution 687". Noting that an

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For information media - not an official record

Iraqi delegation was prepared to travel to New York "as soon as it is invited to do so", the Council finally asks its President to extend such an invitation for the delegation to be able to come to Headquarters "without further delay".

The Presidential statement follows a round of consultations held earlier today by the Council after the publication of a report by Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, on his recent mission to Iraq to seek guarantees from the Iraqi Government for complete disclosure of its weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Ekeus had concluded in his report that it was not possible to obtain such guarantees and that Iraq was not providing full and complete disclosure of its weapons programmes.

In a letter to Mr. Ekeus today, the Iraqi minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, had requested that no final decision be taken to implement the plan to destroy certain ballistic missile equipment which, he alleged, can be modified and changed in such a way that it becomes incapable of being used in the production of any weapon or prohibited material. He had suggested that the matter be discussed in the framework of "all the fundamental matters to be submitted to the Security Council and the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission" by a high-level Iraqi delegation that would come to New York in March.

* * *

The Security Council this morning voted unanimously to authorize the establishment of the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and asked the Secretary-General to begin the deployment of the Force "as rapidly as possible in the most efficient and cost-effective way".

By its resolution, the Council approved the Secretary-General's plan for the deployment of UNTAC and his preliminary estimates at some $2 billion for the cost of the Force for approximately 15 months. That amount includes an initial $200 million appropriated by the General Assembly on 14 February. The Council said it was vital that elections be held in Cambodia by May 1993 at the latest and called on all the parties concerned to comply scrupulously with the Paris Agreements signed last October.

The Council further urged the Cambodian parties to agree to the complete demobilization of their military forces prior to the end of the registration for the elections, as well as to the destruction of weapons and ammunition.

In an addendum to his report, the Secretary-General noted that the costs of the repatriation programme for the large number of refugees of the Thai/Cambodian border were excluded from his proposed estimates. He said he would launch a separate appeal for the financing of that operation

In a statement to the Council following its decision, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today's decision was "vitally important both for Cambodia and for the United Nations", adding that he intended to visit the country in April. The UNTAC was a delicate and difficult mission, he said, in

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its aim to put an end to two decades of war, destruction and suffering, to create the conditions for a lasting peace and to lead the Cambodian people to free and democratic elections. He urged that the timetable for the deployment be kept and that the full mandate entrusted to UNTAC be implemented.

Also addressing the Council, the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the United States, Thomas R. Pickering, said the Paris Agreements of last October had reserved a central role for the United Nations and had formed the basis of the Council's action today. He expressed the hope that the deployment of the operation could proceed rapidly in order to preserve the settlement.

The UNTAC will be headed by his Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and will comprise more that 22,000 United Nations personnel, including human rights, civil administrative and military components as well as a police component of some 3,600 civilian police monitors operating throughout the territory.

The electoral component will consist of 72 international personnel operating from headquarters in Phnom Penh and another 126 personnel at a number of centres throughout the country.

* * *

Delegates from 148 countries today completed two weeks of negotiations on an international treaty on climate change, reporting progress but still in disagreement on several fundamental issues.

Jean Ripert (France), the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, said that with only three months remaining before the intended signing of a climate convention at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June, he still believed agreement was possible.

The process was complex, he pointed out at a press briefing at Headquarters after the suspension of the session. "We are not negotiating either a declaration or a resolution, we are negotiating a convention, a document that will bind Governments for many years, and that is a heavy responsibility."

Mr. Ripert said he hoped that political will would be mobilized at the end of the next round of negotiations, scheduled to take place from 30 April to 8 May, so the Committee could come up with a satisfactory convention that would make it possible to start a pragmatic, determined process of cooperation in the area of climate change.

Meanwhile, the world's three largest environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO's), at a press conference at Headquarters earlier this morning, warned that without a new impetus there might be no agreement reached. Greenpeace International, Friends of the Earth and World Wildlife Fund called for an emergency high-level meeting, within the next four to eight

weeks, in order to break the impasse which they said had stalled the climate change negotiations.

They attributed the stalling of the negotiations to the United States which, they said, had not indicated its willingness to agree to any specific commitments to limit gas emissions. Until there was that kind of commitment by the United States, the negotiating process would not be able to come up with an effective signature text for the Earth Summit in June.

The three organizations said the emergency summit would call for "a deal" between the industrialized countries on the stabilization and reduction of CO2 emissisons and other greenhouse gases; a package on the financial and technological transfers, and clear commitments on the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficient technologies. Without such a deal, he said, there would be "either no convention in Rio, thereby giving a disastrous signal to the whole world, or we will have a hollow, empty convention which is also unimaginable".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1090
2 March 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly admits nine States to United Nations membership, including eight former Soviet Republics and San Marino, bringing to 175 total number of United Nations Member States.

+ Preparatory Committee for United Nations Conference on Environment and Development hears statement by Secretary-General of the Conference Maurice Strong as it begins fourth and final session at Headquarters.

+ Iraq says that, while it has repatriated 6,520 Kuwaitis or third-country nationals to Kuwait, International Committee of the Red Cross has not responded to request by Iraq to organize search for missing Iraqis in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

* * *

At its resumed its forty-sixth session this morning, the General Assembly admitted by acclamation nine States to membership of the United Nations. The nine -- eight former Republics of the Soviet Union: Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia -- and San Marino, bring to 175 the total number of United Nations Member States.

In a statement to the General Assembly, its President Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), welcomed the newly admitted States as full fledged members of the United Nations, saying he looked forward to their contribution in their own interest and in the interest of mankind. He expressed the hope that the Organization would be strengthened with the admission of the States.

At the flag-raising ceremony following the Assembly's action, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that once again, within the short period of six months, the United Nations was welcoming a significant number of new Members and taking another step forward towards universality. He noted that the United Nations membership had more than tripled since its founding in 1945.

Among other topics considered by the General Assembly during its resumed session today was a letter from the Permanent Representative of Egypt

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For information media--not an official record

requesting that the question of restructuring the Secretariat be taken up directly in the Assembly. The Assembly also debates the request by the Secretary-General for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force to be dispatched to Yugoslavia".

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development began today at Headquarters its fourth and final session of preparations for the Conference, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 2 to 12 June.

During its session, which will last until 3 April, the Committee will discuss how to provide additional financial resources and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

Deliberations will also focus on proposals for the two main documents expected to be adopted at Rio de Janeiro: Agenda 21, a major comprehensive plan of Action extending into the twenty-first century and covering major areas affecting the relationship between the environment and the economy; and the Earth Charter/Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development -- a set of principles on rights and obligations which must govern the economic and environmental behaviour of peoples and nations to ensure "our common future".

This final session will be essentially a negotiating one with no general discussion on issues or reports, but with the bulk of the work being conducted in informal meetings.

Addressing the Preparatory Committee this afternoon, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Maurice Strong, urged that all the issues pending before the Committee must be resolved in this final session, saying it would not be feasible to leave unresolved questions on the expectation that they could be dealt with at Rio.

Mr. Strong expressed the hope that the Committee would thus successfully provide the foundations for what he believed would be a historic success in Rio, in producing the "new global partnership" that would set the world community on a new course to a "more sustainable, secure and equitable future" as the 21st century was moving closer.

* * *

Iraq has stated that, while it has returned 6,520 Kuwaitis or third-country nationals, both soldiers and civilians, to Kuwait, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since March 1991, the Committee has not responded to a request by Iraq that it coordinate a similar search for missing Iraqis in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 February, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq Ahmad Hussein stated that there were at present some

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3,600 Kuwaitis in Iraq who were not detainees but who "are at liberty, and are living a normal life and may move about" in Iraq. They had been given the opportunity to register with the ICRC in Baghdad and to submit applications in order to return to Kuwait of their own free will. However, he said, the Kuwaiti authorities had only given clearance for the immediate repatriation of 468 persons.

The Iraqi Minister pointed out that Iraq was "closely observing" attempts being made to "exploit this matter" in order to wage media campaigns aimed at "deluding Arab and international public opinions into believing that Iraq is detaining large numbers of Kuwaitis and is refusing to repatriate them". (S/23661)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1091
3 March 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General deeply grieved over death of Fijian soldier of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from wounds received during recent incidents in southern Lebanon.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, to go to Yugoslavia tomorrow, 4 March, to meet with all principal leaders prior to deployment of United Nations peace-keepers; Secretary-General to brief Force Commander and military and civilian personnel tomorrow at Headquarters.

+ Secretary-General says "alternative courses of action" and "new approach" to question of Western Sahara will be necessary if agreement on existing United Nations plan is not reached by end of May.

+ Representative of Russian Federation tells Outer Space Subcommittee that space technology plays effective role in monitoring state of environment.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that Myanmar refugee influx is turning Bangladesh situation into "major crisis".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed grief over reports of the death of a member of the Fijian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from wounds he received during recent incidents in southern Lebanon. The 25-year-old Fijian peacekeeper, Petain Sorovakatini, was seriously wounded on 20 February in crossfire between the Israeli Defence Force and armed elements in the Nepalese battalion's area of deployment.

The Secretary-General said through his Spokeswoman, Nadia Younes, that the death once again underlined risks to which United Nations peacekeepers were exposed in service for peace. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the soldier's family and to the Government of Fiji.

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For information media—not an official record

Quoting statistics, Ms. Younes said that the death of the Fijian soldier last night brought to 25 the number of Fijians killed since the beginning of UNIFIL in 1978. She noted that 185 UNIFIL soldiers have died since the establishment of the Force.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that the Secretary-General has requested his Personal representative for Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, to pay a further visit to the country. Accompanied by his Special Adviser, Ambassador Herbert Okun, Mr. Vance will arrive in Belgrade tomorrow, 4 March. He will also travel to Zagreb and Sarajevo.

The Spokeswoman said that the Secretary-General had decided that Mr. Vance should pay one more visit to Yugoslavia before the first United Nations peace-keepers arrive next week. The purpose of the trip was to meet once more with all principal political and military leaders, especially in Belgrade and Zagreb.

At the invitation of Lord Carrington, Mr. Vance would round up his mission by attending the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the European Community's Conference on Yugoslavia, scheduled to take place in Brussels on Monday, 9 March.

The Spokeswoman further announced that Lieutenant Colonel Satish Nambiar, the newly-appointed Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), would meet with the Secretary-General tomorrow at Headquarters; intensive briefings of the Force Commander, senior military personnel and the civilian component are scheduled to start tomorrow and to continue through Friday. Those attending briefings, approximately 32 persons, would leave New York on Saturday, 7 March, arriving in Yugoslavia on Sunday. Personnel from each of UNPROFOR's 12 battalions would begin arriving on 10 March, with the largest contingents scheduled to arrive between 12 and 16 March.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General has forwarded a letter to the President of the Security Council containing a proposal for the military elements of the UNPROFOR. The countries contributing troops to the Force are Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says it will be necessary to consider "alternative courses of action and possibly adopt a new approach to the whole problem" if an agreement on the implementation of the existing United Nations plan for Western Sahara has not been reached by the end of May, 1992.

(more)

In his report to the Security Council, dated 28 February, Mr. Boutros-Ghali states that although he is not able to propose a revised timetable for the referendum which should have taken place in January, he recommends that the current level of activity of United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) be maintained for a three-month period until the end of May. The primary function of MINURSO in its present limited deployment is to monitor the cease-fire, which, he says, has held for five and a half months.

The Secretary-General reports that the difficulties that have arisen with the two parties regarding the interpretation of some essential elements of the settlement plan have had an adverse effect on its implementation. This, he says, together with the fact that the United Nations has never bere organized a referendum of this kind, explains to a large degree the delay that has occurred. (S/23662)

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Space technology played an effective role in monitoring the state of the environment and the unfavourable ecological changes occurring on land, sea and air, the representative of the Russian Federation, Boris Khabiriv, told the the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Outer Space Committee yesterday.

In an address to the Committee, as it began consideration of the earth environment, he said the problem of organizing a global system of space monitoring of the ecology was becoming ever more timely. The outer space Committee could play an important part in that process.

Speaking for the United States, Peter G. Smith said Mission to Planet Earth was his country's concept for an international science programme to produce the understanding needed to predict and respond to accelerated environmental changes on the earth. A vital part of the Mission to Planet Earth programme, he went on, was data received from space-based satellites, such as the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite. It was making critical measurements of the ozone concentration, energy input and chemical composition of the upper atmosphere.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported today that the dramatic influx of Myanmar refugees was rapidly turning the situation in Bangladesh into one of the world's major refugee crisis.

In a press release issued at Headquarters, the Agency said that between 5,000 and 7,000 refugees were streaming across the border from Myanmar daily, and official government estimates had put the number of refugees at over 90,000. It said High Commissioner Sadako Ogata had released $2.7 million from her emergency fund to meet the immediate needs of the refugees and would issue an international appeal shortly.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1092
4 March 1992

WRDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Warring parties in Somalia sign agreement on immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio, ending four months of fighting for control over city.

+ Libya submits its dispute with United States and United Kingdom concerning destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772 to International Court of Justice.

+ In message on occasion of International Women's Day to be observed on Sunday, 8 March, Secretary-General says advancement of women has slackened; calls for efforts to ensure equality for all.

+ Governor of Rio de Janeiro addresses Preparatory Committee for United Nations Environment and Development Conference to be held in that city in June.

* * *

It was announced last night at Headquarters that the Somali parties had signed an agreement on an immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio, thus ending four months of fighting for control of the city .

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Somalia, Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, the agreement was signed yesterday by interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aideed, following four days of negotiations between a high-level international group and the two factions. The document contains a provision for the arrival of a United Nations technical team in Mogadiscio to conclude agreement on modalities for the monitoring of the cease-fire.

Mr. Jonah reported that over 25,000 civilians have been killed or wounded since the resumption of the civil war in November 1991.

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For information media—not an official record

Officials of the United Nations and of regional organizations -- the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference -- witnessed the signing of the agreement.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Libya had decided to submit its dispute with the United States and the United Kingdom concerning the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772 to the International Court of Justice. He said the Secretary-General had informed the President of the Security Council of this development. The matter is now in the hands of the Court to decide.

The spokesman said the Registrar of the International Court had faxed a letter to the Secretary-General saying that the Libyan authorities had instituted proceedings against the two countries regarding a dispute on the application or interpretation of the provisions of the Montreal Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation. The Libyans had also filed for the institution of provisional measures under article 41 that states that the parties shall cease and desist from any action in any other fora while this is pending in the court.

* * *

The pace of progress for the advancement of women has slackened visibly and the gap between equality before the law and equality in practice is growing, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated in his message marking International Women's Day, to be observed Sunday, 8 March.

The Day was a timely opportunity to strongly reaffirm the goals of equal rights of men and women, as spelled out in the Charter of the United Nations. The Secretary-General noted that, since its inception, the United Nations had steadfastly worked to eliminate discrimination against women.

Women played a critical role in the development process and must thus be at the centre of efforts to create the necessary awareness and also act as the instrument for initiating actions that would help to sustain life on earth, he went on. The importance of empowering the world's women to achieve the broader objective of development and social progress was widely recognized, but now it must be translated into specific action. He called for the formulation of plans for sustainable development with the full participation of women reflecting their interests, needs and perspectives.

* * *

The Governor of Rio de Janeiro -- the host city for the Earth Summit in June -- told yesterday the Preparatory Committee that no matter how important the documents adopted by the Conference would be, they would mean nothing if the people were not educated to understand them.

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In an address to the Committee, Leonel Brizola said the question of environment was, in fact, the question of development and education. Brazil was a kind of synthesis of most problems affecting the world today and it had to face the results of those problems in the name of progress and development.

Work on the infrastructure for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was taking place now, he said. The State of Rio de Janeiro was aware of its responsibility in hosting the Conference and was doing what it could despite its economic problems.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1093
5 March 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announces appointment of Force Commander and other senior officials to head United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia; directors of special components of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia also appointed; Joseph Vernon Reed of the United States appointed as Special Representative for Public Affairs in charge of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

+ United Nations spokesman reports attack on United Nations ship carrying food supplies to Mogadiscio, only two days after signing of Somalian cease-fire agreement on 3 March.

+ Secretary-General cites recent meetings in Tripoli between his Envoy, Vasiliy Safronchuk, and Libyan President Colonel El-Qaddafi, in report issued before announcement of Libya's decision to hand over dispute to International Court of Justice.

+ World Health Organization calls on Earth Summit to put links between health and environmental degradation high on its agenda.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission to meet 8 to 16 April in New York to address actual demarcation of border between the two countries.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced today his appointments to head the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

His Spokesman, François Giuliani, informed correspondents of the appointments which include Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar as Force Commander of UNPROFOR, effective immediately; Major-General Philippe Morillon as Deputy Force Commander; Mr. Cedric Thornberry as Director of Civil Affairs in the civilian component; Mr. Kjell Johansen as Commander of the Civilian Police; Frederic Eckhard as Spokesman for UNPROFOR.

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The Spokesman further announced Mr. Boutros-Ghali's appointments of the directors of the special components of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who will serve under the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi. For the Human Rights component: Mr. Dennis McNamara (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodian Assistance Programme); the electoral component: Prof. R.H.F. Austin (Head of the United Nations survey mission); the refugee repatriation component: Mr. S. Vieira de Mello of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the rehabilitation component: Mr. Benjamin Bernander of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the civilian police component: Col. Klaas Roos (Netherlands); civil administration: to be filled.

The appointment of the Force Commander of UNTAC would be announced shortly.

The Spokesman also announced the appointment of Joseph Vernon Reed as Special Representative for Public Affairs. Mr. Reed will be in charge of preparations for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

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Only two days after the signing of the cease-fire agreement in Mogadiscio on 3 March, reports reached Headquarters today that a World Food Programme (WFP) ship carrying food supplies to the Somalian capital had been fired at by forces guarding the port and had to return to Mombasa.

Briefing correspondents about the incident, Spokesman François Giuliani said that medical supplies and shelter material provided over the last four days by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had already been flown into Mogadiscio by World Food Programme (WFP) transport planes. He said Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, the Secretary-General's special envoy to Somalia, had protested to the various parties to the cease-fire agreement over the incident.

The Spokesman further announced that the joint mission of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States had ended its first six-day visit to Somalia today. The mission is part of a proposed series of visits for meetings with political and clan leaders in parts of Somalia outside Mogadiscio to solicit views and suggestions on the holding of a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia. The conference is seen as the second phase in a joint international initiative for peace in Somalia.

Under-Secretary-General Jonah is expected to report to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the outcome of the mission on Friday, 6 March.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says in his latest report on Libya that while the Security Council's request for Libyan cooperation in establishing responsibility for the destruction of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA

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flight 772 has "not yet been complied with", there has been "a certain evolution in the position of the Libyan authorities" since his last report of 11 February.

The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council was issued on 3 March, before the announcement yesterday that Libya had submitted its dispute with the United States and the United Kingdom to the International Court of Justice. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said yesterday that the case was now in the hands of the Court.

In his report, the Secretary-General cites two meetings held on 24 and 27 February in Tripoli between his Envoy, Vasiliy Safronchuk, and Libyan President Colonel El-Qaddafi. He reports that during those meetings, the Libyan leader made clear that "constitutional obstructions" prevented his Government from handling over "Libyan citizens abroad for trial in the absence of an extradition treaty". However, Libya would agree to act on the French proposal that a judge come to Libya to investigate the case. Colonel El-Qaddafi further stated that, although it was premature to discuss the question of compensation, Libya would guarantee such payment awarded "as a result of responsibility of its suspected citizens if they are unable to pay it themselves".

The Secretary-General also reported that on 26 February, while in Geneva, he had met with a special envoy of Colonel Qaddafi, Mr. Yusef Debri, Head of the Libyan Intelligence, with whom he had reviewed the entire situation.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for the Earth Summit to put the link between health and the environment high on its agenda. A new report by the Agency on health and environmental degradation will be the WHO's main contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

According to the report, diseases related to the environment and to lifestyle, especially infectious diseases and cancer, kill an estimated 75 per cent of the 49 million people who die each year. Some 2.5 billion people suffer from illnesses associated with insufficient or contaminated water and lack of sanitation.

The Agency says that the report, produced by the WHO Commission on Health and Environment after a two-year study of the links between the health environmental degradation, is the first comprehensive analysis that puts people's health first.

* * *

The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission said in a statement today that contrary to recent press reports, no recommendations or decisions on the

(more)

boundary between the two countries have yet been made. The Commission will meet in New York from 8 to 16 April and will then review the results of its surveying and mapping and address the actual demarcation of the boundary.

Mandated by the Security Council's resolution 687 (1991), the Commission has been gathering data for determining the precise boundary for demarcation purposes between Iraq and Kuwait. New highly accurate maps, along with earlier maps, will produce maps covering the entire length of the boundary.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1094
6 March 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General is deeply concerned at continuing fighting in region of Nagorno-Karabakh which has resulted in many deaths in recent weeks.

+ Secretary-General urges Government of Myanmar to "rectify causes of tragic situation" which, he says, poses threat to stability of region; calls on international community to assist refugees fleeing into Bangladesh.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council enlarge mandate of United Nations Angola Verification Mission to include division to monitor elections scheduled for September.

+ Secretary-General reaffirms his commitment to equality between women and men in statement on occasion of International Women's Day observed at United Nations Headquarters today.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep concern at the continuing fighting in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan which has resulted in many deaths in recent weeks.

In a statement at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said the situation was particularly alarming because Azerbaijan, as well as Armenia, had recently joined the United Nations, thereby assuming a solemn obligation under the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes by peaceful means.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed hope for an immediate end to the fighting and that the parties would settle their disputes in accordance with their obligations as Member States of the United Nations, and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

In related news, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced today that an aircraft would leave Geneva on Saturday, 7 March for Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, carrying 11 delegates and three tonnes of emergency medical supplies.

The Committee said its main concern was to get help as quickly as possible to the victims, both Azeri and Armenian, of the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh.

* * *

The Secretary-General has called on the international community to render its full support to United Nations efforts to assist the large number of refugees fleeing from Myanmar into Bangladesh, placing a heavy burden on that country.

In a statement at Headquarters today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he was "seriously concerned" at the situation in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, and called on that Government to take all necessary action to "rectify the causes of this tragic situation", which, he said, if not addressed urgently, would "threaten the stability of the region and increase human suffering".

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is currently in the process of assisting Bangladesh in dealing with the crisis.

* * *

Much has been achieved in implementation of the Angola peace process, but much remains to be done to ensure that elections will take place in September as foreseen in the Peace Accords, states Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He has therefore recommended that the Security Council enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM) to include an electoral division for the purpose of assisting the Angolan parties in the holding of elections.

The Angolan Government and the opposition movement -- known as UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) -- agreed last May on a United Nations monitored peace plan to end sixteen years of civil war in that country.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 3 March, the Secretary-General said that despite some incidents, there had been no major violation of the cease-fire. He described that as "an outstanding achievement" by the parties, but urged that the timetable for implementation of the Peace Accords not be "delayed further" and that all Angolan parties and forces join together urgently in making renewed commitments to the realization of the elections.

(more)

Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted that, if approved by the Security Council, the "new role for the United Nations" in Angola would be a "daunting challenge" given the devastated condition of the country with regard to lack of infrastructure as well as administrative and political instability.

The Secretary-General's report is based, among other things, on observations made by his Special Representative, Margaret Anstee, who is the Chief of UNAVEM II and who visited Angola from 17 to 20 February. An office of the Special Representative is expected to be established this month in Luanda.
(S/23671)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reaffirmed his commitment to equality between women and men in a statement delivered on the occasion of International Women's Day observed today at the United Nations. The Day will be observed world-wide on Sunday, 8 March.

In his address to the staff this morning, the Secretary-General pointed to his long record in the area of women's equality dating back to the 1950's with the appointment of Ms. Horeya Megahad as the first woman Assistant in the Department of Political Science at Cairo University. Professor Megahad is now head of the Department and a Member of the People's Assembly.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali acknowledged that there was still much to be done to achieve equality in the United Nations Secretariat saying that "unless women are assured of a work place free of bias, in which they can compete under conditions of equality, we cannot expect to attract the calibre of women we need".

The recruitment freeze, instituted as a necessary step while staff resources were being considered, would clearly slow down efforts to increase the number of women in the staff, the Secretary-General said. However, women would be given every opportunity to serve in the new peace-keeping operations that are being mounted. At the same time, he said, women would be asked to serve at higher levels as replacements for staff who have left for mission service.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali went on to say that he understood the concerns of the General Service staff, most of whom are women, and their frustration over limited prospects for advancement. However, he said, the restructuring of the secretarial occupation had not yet produced an acceptable overall solution.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General pays tribute to former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who died this morning in Tel Aviv, saying he played "important role" in events leading to 1979 Treaty between Egypt and Israel, and signing of Camp David in 1978.

+ Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq and other Government officials to meet with President of Security Council tomorrow; in related development, France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and United States say Iraq has not yet provided information about Kuwaitis and third country nationals detained in Iraq.

+ Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah briefs correspondents on his proposal to send unarmed force of some 40 United Nations observers to Mogadiscio, Somalia, to monitor cease-fire agreement signed on 3 March.

+ Force Commander of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia arrives in Belgrade with 34-member advance party.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appeals for $27.5 million in emergency aid for Myanmar refugees fleeing to Bangladesh.

+ China tells Preparatory Committee for Earth Summit that "any attempt to impose certain political and development models" with regard to international cooperation in environmental protection was "undesirable".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was informed early this morning of the death of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachen Begin in Tel Aviv.

In a statement through his Spokesman, the Secretary-General said Mr. Begin had played an "important role in the historic events which led to the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai".

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Mr. Boutros-Ghali also paid tribute to the courage and vision demonstrated by Mr. Begin in answering positively former President Sadat's peace initiative of 1977, which led to the signing the following year of the Camp David agreements. He expressed the hope that the new generation of leaders in the region would have the same courage and political determination and extended his condolences to Mr. Begin's family and the Israeli Government.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz would arrive in New York tomorrow for a meeting with Security Council President Diego Arria of Venezuela. Mr. Aziz would be accompanied by the Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and by Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Abdul Amir A. Al-Anbari.

The Council President was also scheduled to meet with the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolk Ekeus, before tomorrow afternoon's consultations of the Council, and with Hans Blix, Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In related news, five allied countries in the Persian Gulf war say that despite claims to the contrary by Iraq, that country "has not yet lived up to its commitments" under the 1949 Geneva Convention and the Security Council's resolutions to provide information about detained Kuwaitis and third country nationals in Iraq. They say nearly one year has passed since all the parties to the Gulf conflict, including Iraq, agreed to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to gather such information in Iraq.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 6 March, the five Governments -- France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States -- say a recent declaration by Iraq that it was prepared to publish the names of the missing persons, is "once again an attempt by Iraq to delay fulfilling its commitments".

They remind that it was proposed already in October 1991 at a Tripartite Commission Meeting in Geneva that the Government of Iraq publish the names of the missing in the Iraqi media and the public provide any information on these persons to the ICRC. But to date, "Iraq has not published any names in any part of the media", the allied countries say.

Iraq "assumes" that it has met its obligations under the Security Council's cease-fire resolution with regard to detainees. However, the five countries say, the Iraqi compliance with its obligations under the Council resolutions should be "judged by Iraqi actions, rather than by declarations of intent".

The letter was signed by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the five countries -- Jean Bernard Merimée of France, Mohammad A. Abulhasan of Kuwait, Mustafa M.H. Kawthar of Saudi Arabia, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom and Acting Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Alexander F. Watson.

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The Council was holding consultations this afternoon on the question of Iraqi compliance with resolution 687 (1991) that set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Gulf war. The Council is continuing consultations on the topic tomorrow, and a formal meeting of the Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, 11 March.

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Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Somalia, told correspondents today that he had proposed to the Secretary-General to send an unarmed force of some 40 United Nations observers, including a military and civilian police component, to Mogadiscio to monitor the cease-fire agreement signed by the two fighting parties on 3 March.

Mr. Jonah has just returned from a joint mission to the area with officials of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The mission was part of a proposed series of visits for meetings with political and clan leaders outside Mogadiscio in preparation for a conference on national reconciliation and unity in Somalia.

Briefing correspondents on his recommendation to send observers to Somalia, Mr. Jonah said that interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed has indicated his preference for the sending of an "intervention force" to combat anticipated fighting by element, who, he said, were "well armed with modern weapons", and who were not affiliated with either General Mohamed Farah Aideed or the interim President -- the two principal fighting parties. However, Mr. Jonah said, such a situation would require a larger force, and "attempts are being made to avoid that kind of contingency if possible".

Before the observer group could be dispatched, he said, a technical team, comprising eight to ten technical and logistical experts, including one from the three regional organizations, would review the situation in Mogadiscio and provide the Security Council with specifics on the size and costing of the proposed military observer operation.

"Somalia is still a tragedy," Mr. Jonah said, citing the "frightening situation" involving armed hungry elements who obstruct food deliveries from the port, "unless they are satisfied". He said the situation was unlike anything faced by the United Nations in the past and confirmed that there was evidence of a continuing arms trade.

The Secretary-General's report on the situation on Somalia is expected later this week and since there was "some urgency" in sending the technical mission to Mogadiscio, Mr. Jonah said, there was also the possibility of a meeting by the Security Council on the matter this week.

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Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), accompanied by an advance party of 34 military, police and civilian personnel, have arrived in Belgrade, according to a report from UNPROFOR Spokesman Fred Eckhard.

The team, which arrived on Sunday, 8 March, split up today to pursue its activities, including the planning of reconnaissance missions to the area of operations by some elements, while the Force Commander and others held a series of consultations with officials.

According to Mr. Eckhard, General Nambiar today discussed practical arrangements for the UNPROFOR advance party's work in the week ahead with Borisav Jovic, the President of the State Committee with the United Nations. He also held talks with the Acting Minister of Defence and senior military officers, attended a military and political briefing and took a tour of office facilities made available for use by UNPROFOR.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have also briefed the advance party. Tomorrow, General Nambiar and part of his team will travel to Zagreb, while other subgroups begin reconnaissance missions in the area of operations.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees today appealed for $27.5 million in emergency aid for an estimated 150,000 Myanmar refugees fleeing into Bangladesh.

The Agency said in a press release issued at Headquarters that some 110,000 refugees were now gathered in 11 camps inside Bangladesh, but that thousands more were waiting along roadsides for available sites. Last week, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata released more than $3 million from her emergency fund for immediate relief efforts.

In a statement on Friday, 6 March, Secretary-General called on the international community to assist the UNHCR in helping the refugees and urged the Government of Myanmar -- formerly known as Burma -- to "rectify the causes of this tragic situation" which, he said, posed a threat to the stability of the region.

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China's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Huaqiu has said that any attempt to impose certain political and economic development models or various unreasonable conditions on others in the process of exploring international cooperation in environmental protection was undesirable.

In a statement to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on Friday, 6 March, the Chinese Minister said the right of each country to choose its path of development and

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rationally to exploit and utilize its own resources must be respected. Any interference he said, would fundamentally weaken the basis of cooperation. He proposed the setting up of a special fund to finance the environmental protection efforts of the developing countries and help them attain sustainable development. He also called for progress in negotiations on financial resources and technology transfer questions.

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